

Reeth. R.D.B

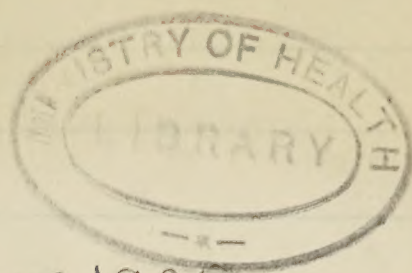
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To the Secretary.

Ministry of Health.

Sir,

The following is my report for the year 1925.



### Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres) 74,538.

Population Census 1921 2524 and estimated for 1925 2310.

It is on the mountain limestone geological formation at an altitude varying from 600-2200 feet above sea level. It consists almost entirely of moorland and permanent pasture land. It is watered by the river Swale and its tributary beck.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) 690.

Rateable Value: £ 30,089.

Sum represented by a penny rate £ 68

The majority of the inhabitants are employed in raising sheep and cattle. There is a chert quarry at Fremington and another in Arkenjardale. There are three small coal pits. Lead mining was at one time the principal industry in the district, but was given up many years ago. Lead mines have now been re-opened between Arkenjardale and Swaledale where some 30-40 men are employed.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	Males	Females	
Births	Legitimate	42	18	24	Birth Rate 18.56
	Illegitimate	2	—	2	
Deaths		31	14	17	Death Rate 13.08.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth - 2.

Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 births - none.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) none



Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) none.

" " Influenza 4

" " Tuberculosis 1 (non-pulmonary)

" " Pneumonia 1

The amount of Poor Law relief is £3.16.0 per week. There is no hospital or other form of gratuitous medical relief.

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

There is no hospital provided or subsidised by the Local Authority.

No institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless infants, children, except the workhouse.

No ambulance facilities.

No clinics or treatment centres.

Public Health Staff Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector, both part-time officers.

There is a District Nurse at Reeth, supported by voluntary contribution.

There are no midwives practising in the area.

There are no adoptive acts or byelaws relating to the Public Health in force in the district.

The Local Authority co-operates with the Poor Law in the district.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. In all parts of the District the inhabitants are supplied with water from mountain springs which abound in the district. The supplies are constant, but they may fall short during a very dry summer, causing some inconvenience to the inhabitants, but no actual want. There is little source of contamination as in most parts of the district the water is piped directly



from the springs or into a storage tank. A large amount of the houses have an inside water supply. Others get their water from standpipes in the villages. The water is good but hard.

A new storage tank has been put in at Geetham in 1925 -  $18 \times 12 \times 6$  feet with a capacity of 8000 gallons.

Rivers and Streams. The water courses are not polluted to any extent. The sewage from Reeth is passed over an irrigation meadow.

Closet Accommodation. The majority of houses in the district are supplied with closets on the conservancy system. There are 94 closets on the water carriage system, practically all of which are at Reeth. This number shows an increase of almost 10% since 1923.

Seavenging. This is done by the householders themselves. The contents of the privies are used as manure on the land. Dry refuse and ashes are removed to waste places provided by the Council.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The whole district is regularly inspected for nuisances, housing defects etc. During the year 1925, the Sanitary Inspector, in 5 cases gave informal notice of defects requiring to be remedied. All 5 were satisfactorily attended to. 5 workshops have been inspected and found to be in all respects in a sanitary state.

There are no houses let in lodgings, offensive trades etc. in the district.

Schools. The sanitary condition of the public elementary schools is satisfactory. Where there is an inside water supply - same is good.

Infectious Diseases in Schools.

Reeth Friend's School was closed for 3 weeks in 1921 for Diphtheria.

Gunnerside School was closed for 2 weeks in 1921 for Scarlet Fever.



Trennington School was closed for 2 weeks in 1922 for Influenza.  
Meeber School was closed for 2 weeks in 1922 for Influenza.  
Held School was closed for 2 weeks in 1922 for Chicken pox.  
Lancaster School was closed for 1 week in 1923 for Measles.  
Other measures taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases have been the exclusion of individual children suffering from the disease and of those children of a susceptible age who have been in contact with and have not suffered from the disease.

### Housing.

There is no scarcity of houses in the district. The population has remained fairly steady during the past 5 years. The estimated population for 1921 was 2351 and for 1925, 2370. There may be expected a slight increase in the population owing to the re-opening of Lead-mines.

No cases of overcrowding have been noticed.

The general standard of housing in the area is good. In 1921 one house was examined and found unfit. It was satisfactorily repaired.

No action has been taken with regard to unfit houses.

Number of houses with inside water supply 328.

Number of houses with baths 44.

Number of houses with lavatories 94.

No action has been taken by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding etc.

### Housing Statistics for the Year 1925,

3 new houses have been erected, all without state assistance.

2 houses were inspected for housing defects and both were remedied without service of formal notices.



No action under Statutory Powers has been taken with regard to housing defects.



## Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk is supplied to the inhabitants from the neighbouring farms. It is wholesome and of good quality. Milk is not publicly exposed for sale anywhere.

No action has been taken with regard to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle.

No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations.

Meat. No carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis or any other disease.

All meat shops, stores and vehicles are kept at all times in a thoroughly sanitary condition.

There are no public slaughterhouses.

### Private Slaughterhouses.

	In 1920	In Jan. 1925	In Dec. 1925.
Registered	3	3	3

Other Foods. There are two small bakehouses in Reeth both of which are in a thoroughly sanitary condition.

There have been no cases of food-poisoning in the area.

## Infectious Diseases.

An outbreak of Diphtheria which occurred in Reeth toward the end of 1920 continued into 1921. The disease was introduced from outside the district. Diagnoses were confirmed by bacteriological examination and antitoxin was administered in most cases.

A few mild cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at Sunnyside in the summer of 1921. The origin of the outbreak was not discovered.



One case of Typhoid Fever occurred in 1922 near Reeth and another in 1923 at Fow Rero.

4 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in 1923, 1 case in 1924 and 2 cases in 1925.

A case of Tuberculosis occurs from time to time in the district but very often he is a patient who has come in search of health.

An odd case of Pneumonia has occurred from time to time.

The cost of pathological and bacteriological examination of sputum swabs etc, incurred by private practitioners is borne by the County Council.

Isolation is carried out as far as possible in the homes of the patients.

Disinfection of houses after infectious diseases is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The Schick and Dick tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively have not been carried out in this area, nor have the artificial methods of immunisation against the diseases.

Vaccinations. Between January 1<sup>st</sup> 1925 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 1925, 4 primary vaccinations were performed. Between January 1<sup>st</sup> 1921 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 1925 21 primary vaccinations were performed.

The majority of parents obtain exemption.

Non-notifiable infectious diseases.

There was an outbreak of Influenza at Grenington in January 1922 and another at Muker in February 1922. There was one death in each case. In each case the school was closed for 2 weeks.

Keld School was closed for 2 weeks in 1922 for Measles per.

There was an outbreak of Measles at Fow Rero in 1923 when the school was closed for 1 week. There were



also a few cases of Influenza and Chickenpox at  
Lew Row in 1923

There were a few cases of Influenza at Muker in 1924  
An outbreak of Whooping Cough occurred at Keld in June  
1925. It was introduced into the district by a  
case of the disease from Darlington. Several cases  
were severe. This outbreak did not spread beyond  
the upper part of Swaledale.

An outbreak of Whooping Cough occurred in  
Arkengarthdale in September 1925. This was also  
introduced by a case of the disease coming to the  
district from outside. A very large proportion of the  
children in Arkengarthdale contracted the disease -  
many very badly - one or two developing complications.  
There was one death from the disease in Arkengarthdale.

From Arkengarthdale the disease spread to Lew Row  
and Gurnerside with a few cases at Reeth.

In my opinion it is a pity there is not more control  
over such diseases. If the two children who came  
respectively to Keld and Arkengarthdale had had their  
movements more restricted, probably no case of the  
disease would have occurred in this area.

An outbreak of Influenza occurred at Lew Row  
co-incident with that of Whooping Cough.

An outbreak of Chickenpox occurred at Muker in  
October 1925.

In practically all cases of non-notifiable infectious  
diseases, school intimations were the first means  
of discovery.

#### Other Diseases

Cancer is a fairly common disease in the area.  
Parenchymatous Goutre is also common, especially  
in Arkengarthdale.

Disinfection of premises and articles exposed to



infection, is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Erysipelas	3	—	—

Tuberculosis

New Cases notified 1 male 35 years Pulmonary.  
Deaths 1 female 55 years Non-pulmonary.

No action has been taken with regard to Tuberculosis.

There are no Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases or Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes in the district.

The majority of the conditions relating to the Public Health of the area, existing at the present time, have existed during the past 5 years or longer. Where changes and improvements have taken place these have been noted in the preceding pages.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. Jean Sturrock.

Medical Officer of Health  
Reeth Rural District.

26<sup>th</sup> April 1926.

